

RESPONSES FROM NIS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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declassification



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

CONFIDENTIAL

8 February 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, NIS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Survey Program -  
Assessment and Plans.

I refer to your memorandum of 10 September 1971 to the Director of Central Intelligence. We have reviewed the changes and recommendations therein and are confident that the resulting General Surveys will contain sufficient detail to satisfy the needs of almost every conceivable State reader. Should some specialist happen to require yet more basic facts on some narrow topic, we are also sure that such material will be available either elsewhere in the intelligence community or in public print.

This memorandum thus is designed to express the Department's concurrence in the revised program and to reconfirm our continuing desire to maintain the support role that we play at present.

A. Sidney Buford III  
State Member  
NIS Committee

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

4 FEB 1972

C-0066/DI-1A

Subject: Proposed Changes in National Intelligence Survey (NIS)  
Program (U)

To: Chairman, National Intelligence Survey Committee  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

1. (U) Reference your memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence, 10 September 1971, subject: National Intelligence Survey Program--Assessment and Plans.

2. (C) This Agency agrees to your proposal to eliminate the detailed supplements of the NIS program at the end of FY 72 and to incorporate selected data from these sections in the General Survey. Expansion of the General Survey should be pursued on a selective basis, by country and subject, as the need arises.

3. (C) Review of the detailed supplements currently in work reveals several that are scheduled for delivery during the first half of FY 1973 and should be considered for publication by CIA.

a. The section 23, Weather and Climate, on NIS 85/86/95, scheduled for delivery in July 1972, is now approximately 50 percent completed.

b. The following units, scheduled for delivery as indicated, would complete coverage for the respective areas:

(1) NIS 13A, Section 25, Urban Areas, Halle. This unit has been completed through CIA edit; however, further production has been suspended pending receipt of new source materials needed to resolve reference material differences.

(2) NIS 20, Section 25, Vlore and General Urban Map, July and September 1972, respectively.

(3) NIS 26I, Section 25, Voronezh, November 1972.

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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(4) NIS 43C, Section 35, Ports and Naval Facilities,  
Minor Ports, July 1972.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

*George H. Fiske*

GEORGE H. FISKE  
Assistant Deputy Director for  
Intelligence (Programmed Intelligence)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

7 FEB 1972

DAMI-FI

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMAN, NIS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Production of Detailed Sections of  
National Intelligence Survey (NIS) (C)

1. (C) At the 12 January 1972 meeting of the NIS Committee, you requested that for the next meeting each Member have prepared a memorandum indicating his Department's position on the subject stated above. This memorandum is submitted in response to your request.

2. (C) The Army Staff and commands -- other than those which are components of Unified Commands -- were informed of the proposed discontinuation of production of detailed sections of the NIS. This was accomplished by forwarding as an inclosure a copy of DIA message, Number 6363 dated 012259Z October 1971. The Army addressees were requested to review the message and advise the OACSI, Directorate of Foreign Intelligence if the proposed changes were acceptable. If the changes were not acceptable, the addressees were requested to submit a statement indicating the adverse impact that the changes would have on their operations.

3. (C) In general, the proposed changes were acceptable to the Army Staff and commands. There were, however, several notable exceptions.

a. The US Army Intelligence Command's US Army Imagery Interpretation Center wants Section 24 continued in its present format.

b. The Directorate of Military Engineering, Office of the Chief of Engineers indicated that Sections 24, 25, 31, 32, and 33 are of particular value as detailed supplemental sources for area analysis research in support of military topographic mapping.

c. The US Army Foreign Science and Technology Center (FSTC) strongly objected to discontinuation of the Armed Forces detailed sections for NIS 26 and NIS 39A, and further questioned the advisability of dropping the detailed sections in the Geography and Transportation and Telecommunications subject areas for NIS 26 and 39A and other high priority areas.

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Review of this document by OIA has  
determined that

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Interest that must remain  
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Authority: HR 70-2  
☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

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01 DEC 1970

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DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

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DAMI-FI

8 FEB 1972

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Production of Detailed Sections of  
National Intelligence Survey (NIS) (C)

d. Of the continental armies, schools, and centers of the U.S. Army Continental Army Command (CONARC), only two objected to the proposed changes. The J. F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center expressed continuing need for in-depth coverage of all aspects of targeted countries in support of deployment and predeployment planning and contingency planning. In the past, the NIS has been used as the basic source document and the reduction would hinder acquisition of the required in-depth knowledge. The Center also recommended that Section 57 (Subversion and Insurgency) be restored to the program since the treatment in the General Survey does not provide adequate in-depth coverage. CONARC's Continental Tactical Intelligence Center (CONTIC) stressed its interest in subjects falling within the Geography, Transportation and Telecommunications, and Economy chapters and the sections on Armed Forces and Intelligence and Security. However, CONTIC's concern appeared to stem from the belief that reduction of NIS production meant also that the data base on these subjects would no longer be maintained.

4. (C) a. Apart from the specifics discussed in paragraph 3, above, the undersigned is concerned over a less obvious problem -- that of reducing NIS production at the very time that there is a concurrent reduction of departmental hard-cover production.

b. CIA and DIA are the principal producers of intelligence, i.e., that which is produced as hard<sup>cover</sup>-published intelligence for general distribution to all agencies which have expressed a need for intelligence on the subject or geographic area. DIA has already purged its programmed production of a wide variety of hard-cover products such as the logistical studies, LOC studies, health and sanitation studies, and the like. This action was predicated upon priorities, duplication of other products, and continued coverage in other publications -- the latter two justifications may have referred to NIS coverage which was expected to continue -- e.g., Health and Sanitation Studies vis-a-vis NIS Section 45.

c. It appears that production of programmed hard-cover publications is being phased-out by the producers unilaterally whereas the net total loss in on-the-shelf, hard-cover, published intelligence should first be determined. A cessation of programmed production of a given product may be acceptable so long as there are other publications/products available and programmed for continued production. Conversely, subsequent discontinuation of the latter may create a void so that the user who has come to depend upon published intelligence will find that none is available at the very time he needs it. All too frequently a need arises suddenly, and there is insufficient time to produce, publish, and distribute the intelligence product.

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DAMI-FI

7 FEB 1972

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Production of Detailed Sections of  
National Intelligence Survey (NIS) (C)

d. It is the belief of the undersigned that product elimination must be based on a plan coordinated by the producers rather than by unilateral action taken in the name of economy. The net loss of reduced production by the several agencies should be assessed somewhere at the national level to determine the total cumulative loss in the published intelligence inventory. Otherwise, the program runs the risk of creating voids that could be critical in times of crisis or emergency. It is a basic truism that intelligence should be produced before rather than after it is needed. This was the concept that underlay the establishment of the NIS Program.



BRUCE R. GRANT  
Army Member  
NIS Committee

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Ser C150/NIC-34  
Date 7 February 1972

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grave affects on the responsiveness and success of fleet operating forces in contingency situations. Despite the advent of automated intelligence systems, the NIS remains the only encyclopedic compendium of world-wide data on the aforementioned subjects of naval interest. It appears that changes to the program outlined in references (a) and (b) might result in cursory treatment of these subjects of naval interest and would completely eliminate other information which could be vital to the success of combat operations.

  
J. J. O'RYAN  
CAPT USN  
Deputy Commander, Naval  
Intelligence Command

Copy to:  
NIS Committee Member Dept of State  
NIS Committee Member DIA  
NIS Committee Member Army  
NIS Committee Member Air Force

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE COMMAND  
2461 EISENHOWER AVENUE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22314

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Ser C150/NIC-34  
Date 7 February 1972

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**See Reverse for Review Action**

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY COMMITTEE

Subj: Proposed Reformatting of National Intelligence Survey (U)

Ref: (a) Dir OBGi memo to Dir Central Intelligence of 10 Sept 71  
(b) DIA msg 012259Z OCT 1971

1. (C) The Navy position to the proposed reformatting of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) is one of strong opposition unless it will accommodate the comprehensive coverage of naval subjects now included.
2. (C) References (a) and (b) indicate that separate sections containing detailed data will no longer be produced on such subjects as merchant marine, naval ports and facilities, coasts and landing beaches, oceanography and climatology. Besides immediately depriving Navy planners and operational commanders of the most ready source of such information, eliminating the requirement to publish it in the NIS could lead in the long term to atrophy of the whole world-wide maritime data base through lack of emphasis at the national level on collecting and maintaining such information. If anything, we will need greater efforts in this area as the tempo of operations slows and ship visits to many areas of the world become less frequent.
3. (U) The proposals of reference (a) and (b) appear to eliminate that production on the ocean areas of the world. The Naval Oceanographic Office currently compiles and produces Section 2 (Ocean Areas) and Section 7 (Evaluation) of the NIS. These Sections, in addition to being utilized as an input to the NIS, provide information in satisfying other validated requirements assigned to that office. The current format of Section 2 satisfies not only the NIS requirements, but also the requirement for Oceanographic Atlases. Although a part of the NIS, the oceanographic sections, are utilized by many naval interests outside the intelligence community. The Sections provide the only source in this format of environmental information to operational and planning personnel. They serve in lieu of the Oceanographic Atlas Series, discontinued in 1967 as an economy measure.
4. (C) The proposed reduction in scope of the NIS could have

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Date 7 February 1972

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grave affects on the responsiveness and success of fleet operating forces in contingency situations. Despite the advent of automated intelligence systems, the NIS remains the only encyclopedic compendium of world-wide data on the aforementioned subjects of naval interest. It appears that changes to the program outlined in references (a) and (b) might result in cursory treatment of these subjects of naval interest and would completely eliminate other information which could be vital to the success of combat operations.

  
J. J. GRYAN  
CAPT USN

Deputy Commander, Naval  
Intelligence Command

Copy to:

NIS Committee Member Dept of State  
NIS Committee Member DIA  
NIS Committee Member Army  
NIS Committee Member Air Force

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:

INAKB

8 February 1972

SUBJECT: Proposed Reductions in NIS Program (C)

TO: Chairman, NIS Committee

**See Reverse for Review Action**

1. (C) This letter is submitted pursuant to your request of 12 January for a letter from each NIS Committee Member on his organization's position in regard to subject proposal.

2. (C) Air Force users of NIS products were queried as to the acceptability, from their viewpoint, of the proposed reductions as outlined in DIA message #6363 dated 012259Z October 1971. In general, the responses were that the proposed changes were acceptable. Several users had specific reservations as to the proposal, including:

a. The Electronic Systems Division of the Air Force Systems Command wants Section 23 continued in its present format even if consolidated into the General Survey.

b. The Air Force Communications Service wants the substance of Section 36 incorporated into the G.S. or Section 36 continued.

3. (C) In addition to the objections raised in paragraph 2. above, the general position of acceptance of the proposal by the Air Force must be tempered by overall Air Force intelligence requirements. There is a need for assurance that any reduction of hard cover production by any one of the intelligence producing agencies be assessed at the national level. Only by so doing can the community as a whole, and Air Force as a member of that community, avoid the risk of creating gaps in the published intelligence inventory which could be critical to mission requirements in time of crisis.

*Everett J. Burlando*

EVERETT J. BURLANDO  
Air Force Member  
NIS Committee

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DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY



PRIDE IN THE PAST

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

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